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RECORDS  
OF THE  
DESCENDANTS OF  
John Foreman,

WHO SETTLED IN  
MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY,

About the Year A. D., 1685.

12745  
COMPILED BY WM. P. FORMAN,  
*Ex-Judge of Monmouth Common Pleas,  
New Jersey.*

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CLEVELAND, O.:  
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1885.



1832145



*Wm. P. Forman*



# THE FORMAN FAMILY.

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THE undersigned being now in his seventy-ninth year and from his associations with many of the Forman family and others, with whom he has conversed, extending as far back as sixty or sixty-five years, from family records, from public official records, from inscriptions on headstones, on tombstones, from historical records made soon after the events recorded took place, became possessed of many important historical facts and reminiscences in connection with the history of said family, which he has thought ought not to be lost. He is satisfied that the following short treatise he hereby submits, is substantially correct. He does not insist that he has been able to go into a full and comprehensive history of the family, as it would involve more labor and energy, than at his age, he could bring to the work. He has satisfied himself with giving an outline of our ancestors and their descendants so far as they have come to his knowledge, whereby persons of the name or blood, may trace to a certain extent, at least, the relationship that exists between them, down to the sixth generation from the common ancestor who settled in Monmouth county, New Jersey.

WM. P. FORMAN.

MANALAPAN, Monmouth Co., N. J., December, 1885.



## CHAPTER I.

ABOUT the year 1685 there lived a man by the name of JOHN FOREMAN, the letter (c) seems to have been omitted, and his descendants have since been called FORMAN. It is thought by some that his ancestors migrated from Wales or England, first having settled in Massachusetts, thence removed to Gravesend, on Long Island, and from thence to Monmouth county, N. J., about the year in question. Others infer from Wardrow's History of Scotland, Vol. 4, pages 221 and 331, that in the year 1685 the persecution of the adherents of the Church of Scotland, (Presbyterian) called Covenanters, arose to such a height that many were compelled to seek new homes, and that among them was one JOHN FOREMAN, who settled in New Jersey, about one and one-half miles southeasterly from Monmouth Court House. The neighborhood was long known as the "Forman neighborhood," by the public roads that surrounded it. It has often since been called "Forman square." All seem to agree as to the time and place of settlement. The writer leans to the opinion that the latter version is the most reliable. At all events he became the common ancestor of many of the leading spirits that have since mingled not only with the people of this county but elsewhere. It has been claimed that the name of this common ancestor was not John. Upon due consideration of the matter, however, according to the best information the writer can obtain, he inclines to the opinion that such was his name. He is indebted to REV. G. C. SCHENCK, MRS. JOHN C. FORMAN, MISS MARY ANN FORMAN and others, for much valuable information in making up this record.



The said JOHN FORMAN had born to him as follows, so far as we have been able to learn.

Samuel, born September, 1686.

Jonathan, born September, 1688 ; (married Margaret Wyckoff;) died December, 1762.

Hannah, born December, 1690 ; (married William Murdock ;) died January, 1775.

Aaron, born December, 1693.

Ezekiel, born September, 1695 ; died October, 1746.

Mary, born September, 1697.

Rebecca, born September, 1699.

Capt. John, born September, 1701 ; died November, 1748 ; (he was a blacksmith in Freehold.)

Joseph, born 1704 ; died July, 1775.

Some thirty years since, I was riding by what is known as the Scotch burial ground. I am informed that a church once stood there that was the nucleus from which what is called the Tennent church was formed. It is in the township of Marlboro. I observed a prominent headstone to which my attention was more particularly drawn. I found it had been erected to the memory of JONATHAN FORMAN, Esq., who died December, 1762, aged 74 years. I was unable at that time to determine whether he was a descendant of the pioneer John or not, and remained in ignorance upon that subject until recently when I undertook to look up as many reminiscences of the Forman family as I could find. He appeared to have been the second son of John, senior, born 1688.

Jonathan's children by his wife, Margaret Wyckoff, as far as known, were :

Nelly, born December, 1712 ; (married May 13, 1733, to Abraham Van Dorn.)



Samuel, born 1714 ; (married Helena Denise ;) died 1793.

Peter, born May, 1718 ; (married Eleanor Williamson, 1742;) died November, 1785.

Jonathan, born November, 1721. •

David, born 1733.

Mary, (married Robert Rhea.)

David, (married Anna Denise ;) born 1736 ; died 1798.

Inasmuch as there has been much speculation as to the parentage of GEN. DAVID FORMAN, of military fame, and his connection in the Forman family, from the fact that he appears to have left no children to give the information ; in my researches I have satisfied myself that he was a son of JOSEPH FORMAN, who was the sixth son of the Patriarch, John the 1st.



## CHAPTER II.

OF the issue of Samuel Forman, the 1st, son of the Patriarch, John 1st, born A. D. 1686, so far as I am informed, were : John I. Forman, born 1731, died 1811 ; married Helena Denise, born 1734, died 1796. He was a practical surveyor and one of the county judges. His official signature may be found attached to many records in the Monmouth County offices.

Col. Samuel Forman, (do not know the date of birth,) died about 1814 ; with his two wives was interred in the vault beneath St. Peter's Church in Freehold. He was distinguished in the Revolution, as by reference to the military correspondence of New Jersey fully appears. He lived at that time on the Kildare farm, in upper Freehold, (now Millstone) township, and from the large amount of timber, not fit for other purposes, manufactured large quantities of potash. He left no children.

Issue of John I. Forman, above named, (a grandson of John 1st,) by his wife Eleanor Denise :

John Forman, (I do not know the date of his birth,) removed to Tuckerton, N. J., at an early age.

Denise I. Forman, born 1768, died 1810 ; married Elizabeth Laird, born 1780.

Samuel Forman, at Squan, married Polly Conover. Was the father of Ex-Judge John S. Forman, deceased. The issue of said Judge are the 5th generation from John 1st.

Jane Forman, who married Thomas Thompson, formerly of the Stone House farm, about one mile from Smithburg.

Issue of Denise I. Forman :

John D. Forman, born 1802.

Eleanor, born 1803.



Alice, married John Conover Forman, son of Tunis, born 1805. She has afforded much useful information.

Emeline, married Rev. Mr. Whalan, born 1809.

Anna E., born 1813.

Wm. D., born 1817.

Issue of John D. Forman :

Anna M., married Steward Brown, who is since deceased.

John Forman, and Wm. H. Forman, a lawyer in Freehold.

Issue of Samuel, first son of Esquire Jonathan and grandson of John 1st, who married Helena Denise, April 17, 1759 :

Denise Forman ; (do not know date of birth ;) married Euphemia Kearney, of Key Grove (now Keyport,) on the 5th day of February, 1782.

Eleanor Forman, married Capt. Philip Freneau, poet and editor, who took an active part during and after the Revolution ; dubbed by general consent "The Poet of the Revolution."

Katy Forman, married Benjamin Ledyard, a merchant of New York City ; died A. D. 1775.

Col. Jonathan Forman, a colonel in the Revolution ; also commanded the New Jersey regiment to put down the whiskey insurrection in Pennsylvania. He married Mary Ledyard, of New London, Conn. He had a daughter who was the mother of Gov. Seymour, and John F. Seymour, of New York. She may have had other children not known to the writer.

Margaret Forman, married John Burroughs, a merchant of Middletown Point.

Maj. Samuel S. Forman, married Sarah McCarty, of New London, Conn. At an early day he moved to the State of New York and became one of the founders of the present city of Syracuse, became wealthy and influential ; died at great age. From his writings when very old (but of sound intellect) much useful help was furnished.



## CHAPTER III.

HAVING given some account of the children of Esquire Jonathan Forman, the second son of John 1st, and of the issue of his eldest son Samuel, I now proceed to trace the issue of his second son, Peter, born A. D. 1718, died 1785. His wife, Margaret Williamson, he married A. D. 1742. He was a justice of the peace at the time of the Revolution. I have in my possession his commission, signed by Gov. Livingston.

William Forman, their son, was born 1751; died 1823. His wife, Fransinchy Hendrickson, born 1759; died 1815. She was a daughter of Garret Hendrickson, of Middletown; her mother was Catharine Denise, a daughter of Tunis Denise.

Jonathan Forman lived at the time of his death on the farm occupied now by Joseph Ely, of Manalapan. He was accidentally killed when a young married man. Driving a spirited team, walking by the side of a loaded wagon, his feet became entangled in the lines by which he was thrown under the wheels and instantly killed; he left no issue.

Samuel P. Forman, the youngest son, was a very popular man and was high sheriff of this county several times, and died at Allentown in the prime of his life. He left a son, Peter Forman, who became high sheriff of Hunterdon county; a son Michael, who held an office in this county, and was a good business man, and several daughters, whose names I cannot place, one of whom married John Lawrence Hendrickson, of Allentown.

Peter Forman's daughter, Anna, married Michael Sweetman, who resided on the farm bounded by Sweetman's Lane road.

Jane, married Henderson Sweetman, a brother, whose farm adjoined that of his brother Michael, and the same which was



afterward owned by the Davisons. That neighborhood took its name from those two men.

Mary, married Col. Elisha Walton, an officer in the Revolution, former owner of the mills of Chas. H. Snyder, Esq., (called Black's Mills.) After the war he represented this county for a number of years in the legislative council, and was three times high sheriff of the county. He had two sons, Peter and Thomas, and several daughters. One of them became the wife of John I. Thompson, (called Boss Thompson.) One married William Rogers, the old court cryer so long and favorably known. There were others whose names I do not know. Ex-sheriff Joseph I. Thompson was a grandson, and was of the 5th generation from John Forman 1st, and his son, the present sheriff of this county, of the 6th generation.

Eleanor, married William Conover, the grandfather of Capt. James W. Conover, the patriot and soldier who laid down his life in his efforts to sustain the integrity of his country in the late rebellion. He was of the 6th generation from the said John Forman 1st. Edward M. Conover, the vendue master, was one of the 5th generation from said John 1st.

Lydia, married Garret B. Conover, who formerly owned the David Buck farm. She had a number of children, who all belong to the 4th generation from John Forman 1st.

Helena, married Tunis Vanderveer; died young, having no children; his second wife was a daughter of Dominic DuBois, then pastor of the Dutch church, near Marlboro, of which the Rev. Mr. Wells is now pastor.

Of the issue of Wm. Forman, first son of Peter: Garret died in 1826, about forty-six years old; married Anna Karr, a daughter of Ebenezer Karr. Their children were Fransinchy, Ebenezer, Esther, William, Jonathan, Lydia Ann, Phebe, Elizabeth and Catharine. They removed West.



Peter, born 1781, died 1838 ; married Rebecca Ely, daughter of Isaac Ely ; she died 1817. His second wife was Phebe Ely, daughter of Allison Ely ; died 1848. His children were Wm. P., Sarah Ely and Isaac Ely Forman, all by the first wife.

Catharine died single, A. D. 1873, aged eighty-three years.

Eleanor, married Lewis Ford Hankinson ; had several children, all living in the western country. His sister, Eliza D. Hankinson, was the mother of Ex-Gov. Newell ; her father, James Hankinson, owned the farm now of Mrs. Robert K. Wilson. He was a son of Capt. Kenneth Hankinson, a captain in the Revolution.

Jonathan never married ; died in the western country aged about seventy-four years.

Samuel W., married Mary, a daughter of Jonathan Clayton, who owned what is known as the David Reid farm ; he had a second wife, a native of the west. Some of his children have died ; all that I know are the Misses Mary and Margaret Forman, doing business in Warren, Ohio ; they have a brother, Jonathan Clayton, all by the first wife ; he died a few years since aged about eighty-one years.



## CHAPTER IV.

OF the issue of Wm. P. Forman, the writer of this article, and Evelina Baird, his wife, he being of the 5th generation from John 1st.

Born A. D. 1807, his wife was a daughter of Capt. David Baird, an officer of the Revolution, and was born A. D. 1805 ; died November, 1883. We were married March 12th, 1828 ; consequently were in our fifty-sixth year of married life.

I served as a representative of Monmouth county in the Legislature for the years 1838 and 1839, having been elected on general ticket which was then constitutional, Benjamin Oliphant for council, and Thomas E. Combs, James Craig and Capt. Garret Hires, for Assembly. Was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Monmouth county from 1843 to 1848 under the old constitution, and from 1852 till 1867 under the new, making in all twenty years, and have served in various other offices, civil and ecclesiastical, not herein named. I have two daughters, to wit: Fransinchy Rebecca, who married James Cook Rue, and Mary Elizabeth, who married John Van Mater, of Colts Neck, and one son, Peter Forman, who now represents the first legislative district of the county of Monmouth in the General Assembly. He married Maggie L. Van Doren, March 6th, 1884. My children are of the 6th generation from John 1st.

My only sister, Sarah Ely Perrine, married Wm. I. Perrine, long since deceased, by whom she had six children, Peter Forman Perrine, Catharine E. Dey, recently deceased, Joseph W. Perrine, Stephen J. Perrine, Francis Rosteen Perrine and Sarah E. Allen, wife of Jasper H. Allen, of Dutch Neck. These are also of the 6th generation.



Isaac Ely Forman, born May 4th, 1812, married Elizabeth Ann Ely, a daughter of Richard Ely; they removed west and had one child, William E.; they have all been deceased many years. William's wife was Lavina Edwards, of Eatontown, still living and has married again.

Of the issue of Sheriff David Forman, the youngest son of the aforesaid Peter, and great-grandson of John 1st, and his wife, Anna Denise: He was born A. D. 1733; died 1812. She was born 1736; died 1798.

There seems to have been a strong affinity between the Formans and the Denises, inasmuch as three of the Formans married three sisters, all daughters of Tunis Denise. Samuel married Helena, John I. married Eleanor and David married Anna.

Their son Jonathan, was born 1758, died 1803.

Tunis was born 1761, died 1837. His wife's name was Eleanor Remson, died 1835.

Samuel, born 1764, died 1845. He was a popular physician, lived where the late John Fisher Forman lived and died, and had a very extensive practice for many years.

Of the issue of Jonathan Forman, a son of David:

John B. Forman died in 1853, aged sixty-six years. His wife was Hope, a daughter of Dr. Thomas Henderson, a man of high standing, being an eminent physician and a patriot of the Revolution. He lived on the farm recently owned by Charles Webster, near West Freehold, and is said to have been the builder of the dwelling thereon. She died in 1823, aged thirty-six years. David Forman, another son, a physician located at Middletown, died single, aged thirty-five years. A daughter, Catherine, married Enoch P. Rose, a merchant of Trenton. Eleanor married Rev. Joseph L. Shafer.



Of the issue of John B. Forman and Hope, his wife : He lived and died on the homestead of his father, in the Forman neighborhood.

Miss Mary Ann Forman lives in Jersey City, with her sister, Mrs. Judge Bennington F. Randolph. I have already referred to her as affording much useful information. Since deceased.

Their son, Jonathan Forman, after his father's decease, lived for some time in Freehold, married and removed. Since then I have lost the run of his history.

I do not recollect the name of the daughter who married Judge Randolph. Gov. Bedle married a daughter of Judge and Mrs. Randolph. It will be seen that all descendants beyond the issue of John B. Forman and wife are of the 6th generation from John 1st.



## CHAPTER V.

OF Tunis Forman and his issue by his wife, Eleanor Remson, second son of Sheriff David Forman a great-grandson of John 1st.

The following incident in regard to him appears in Barbour's Historical Collections of New Jersey, page 345, which I have thought would be interesting to many who have not known or heard of it before :

"On a fine morning in May, 1780, as the family of Mr. David Forman, sheriff of the county, were at breakfast, a soldier almost out of breath suddenly burst into the room and stated that he and another soldier were conducting to the court house two men taken up on suspicion at Colts Neck ; they had knocked down his comrade, seized his musket and escaped. The sheriff, on hearing this relation, immediately mounted his horse and galloped to the court house to alarm the guard. His son Tunis, a lad of about seventeen, and small of age, seized a musket loaded only with small shot to kill blackbirds in the corn-fields, and putting on a cartridge box, dispatched his brother Samuel upstairs for the bayonet, and then without waiting for it, hurried off alone in the pursuit.

"After moving in a westerly direction about a mile he discovered the men sitting on a fence, who on perceiving him, ran into a swamp. As the morning was warm he hastily pulled off his coat and shoes and dashed in after them keeping close upon them for over a mile. When they got out of the swamp each climbed into separate trees. As he came up they discharged at him the musket taken from the guard. The ball whistled over his head, he felt for his bayonet, and at that



moment perceived that in his haste it was left behind. He then pointed his gun at the man with the musket, but deemed it imprudent to fire, reflecting even if he killed him his comrade could easily master such a stripling as himself.

"He compelled the man to throw down the musket by threatening him with death if he did not instantly comply. Then loading the prize from his cartridge box, he forced his prisoners down the trees, and armed with his two loaded muskets he drove them toward the court house, careful, however, to keep them far apart to prevent conversation. Passing by a spring they requested permission to drink. 'No,' replied the intrepid boy understanding their design, 'you can do as well without it as myself; you shall have some bye and bye.'

"Soon after, his father at the head of a party of soldiers in pursuit, galloped past in the road within a short distance. Tunis halloed, but the clattering of their horses hoofs drowned his voice. At length he reached the village and lodged his prisoners in the county prison.

"It was subsequently learned that these men, whose names were John and Robert Smith, were brothers from near Philadelphia; that they had robbed and murdered a Mr. Boyd, a collector of taxes in Chester county, and when taken were on their way to join the British. As they had been apprehended on suspicion, merely, of being refugees, no definite charge could then be brought against them.

"A few days after Sheriff Forman saw an advertisement in a Pennsylvania paper describing them, with the facts above mentioned, and a reward of \$20,000 (Continental money) offered for their apprehension. He, accompanied by his son, took them on there, where they were tried and executed. On entering Philadelphia, Tunis was carried through the streets in triumph upon the shoulders of the military. In the latter part of the



war, this young man became very active, and was the peculiar favorite of Gen. David Forman.

"N. B.—This account was taken from the lips of Dr. Samuel Forman, who was then the boy Samuel who was sent upstairs for the bayonet, and was related by him when the transactions in question were fresh in his mind."

His son, John Conover Forman, born A. D. 1800, has been deceased only a short time. His widow, Alice, still survives and resides in Freehold. They had a son, Tunis Augustus, born 1829, died 1861; and a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born 1833, died 1858. Tunis Augustus left a widow, Mrs. Maggie Forman, and a daughter, Lizzie Forman, who resides in Freehold.

His second son, Jonathan T., born 1804, lived on the homestead in the Forman neighborhood, had a son Edward T. Forman, born 1835, now or formerly living in Williamsburg; had a daughter, Theodocia P., and others that I cannot name.

His daughter, Catharine Louisa, born in 1809, married Dr. Edward Taylor, of Middletown, who is now dead. She is still living. They had several children, to wit: Dr. Edward F., who is now a popular practicing physician, having succeeded to his father's practice. He was also Surgeon of the Third regiment, New Jersey militia, the first of the seventy-five thousand men ordered by President Lincoln at the outbreak of the Rebellion, and Surgeon of the First New Jersey regiment of volunteers to the late war. Wm. Remson Taylor, another son, was Lieutenant Colonel of the Twenty-ninth New Jersey volunteers, and on the resignation of Col. Applegate, was promoted to the colonelcy of the regiment. He is now a physician at Astoria, on Long Island. Tunis Forman Taylor resides at Colts Neck, New Jersey, and has held the office of collector or assessor of internal revenue in this district for many years, and is well known. Henry C., who is a practical farmer, lives on the homestead in Middletown. A daughter, Mary, who is single, and a daughter Sarah, who married James Hartshorne.





## CHAPTER VI.

OF the issue of Dr. Samuel Forman, youngest son of Sheriff David Forman and Anna Denise, more particularly referred to in Chapter IV, great-great-grandson of John 1st, his first wife, Ann, died at the age of twenty-six years ; his second wife, Sarah, died in 1837, aged seventy-two years. Their son David was a physician, never married, died in 1826, aged about thirty years.

John Fisher T. Forman, born 1801, died 1877, who lived on the homestead of his father, and his wife, Fransinchy V. Smock, a daughter of John Smock, died in 1877, and both are interred in the Tennent church burying ground, had the following sons and daughters: Sarah E., married J. H. Sinnickson, of Salem, N. J.; Ann, married U. Titus, died in 1863, interred at Titusville ; Dr. Samuel R., a physician located at Jersey City ; Margaretta, died in 1872 ; Richard, Henry and Maria, died in infancy. John Fisher, died in 1877, aged about thirty-seven years. Dr. D. McLean is a practicing physician in Freehold and vicinity ; his practice extends over pretty nearly the same field as did the practice of his grandfather, Dr. Samuel. Uriah, died in infancy. Charles Dubois Forman is a farmer now living on the old homestead. All the family that have died except those named, were interred in the Freehold cemetery.

Richard T. Forman, a son of Dr. Samuel, lived in the Forman neighborhood, died in 1867, aged about fifty-nine years. His wife, Elizabeth, who is now dead, was a daughter of Peter Bilyeu, Esq., deceased, a man much respected. Their issue was Richard, now living on the homestead, and Sarah Ann, who married Charles Wickoff, of the same neighborhood.



Ann, a daughter of Dr. Samuel, married Hon. Joseph F. Randolph, a counselor at law, and since a member of Congress. They have long since deceased.

Anna, daughter of Sheriff David Forman, married Corlies Lloyd, a lawyer of Freehold, by whom she had several children whose history I am not able to follow.

Of the issue of Aaron Forman and Ursilla, his wife ; he was the third son of John 1st, born 1693 : had sons and daughters, George, Lewis, Andrew and Robert, and daughters, Priscilla, Lydia and Phebe. He left as executors of his will his two brothers, Jonathan, Esq., and John.

Of the issue of Ezekiel Forman, fourth son of John 1st, born 1695 ; died 1746 ; wife, Elizabeth : Had sons and daughters, Samuel, Thomas (who removed to Kentucky at an early day and became influential and wealthy,) and Aaron, daughters, Mary, Hannah and Elizabeth. Executors in his will, his brother Jonathan, Esq., brother-in-law Daniel Schenck and Elisha Lawrence.

Further reminiscences of Gen. David Forman, who, as has already been stated, was a son of Joseph, the sixth son of John 1st ; (he had a brother Ezekiel) ; he married Sarah Marsh, of the State of Maryland, by whom he had one daughter, (his only child) Sarah M. Forman. She married Maj. Wm. Gordon Forman a son of a relative of Gen. Forman, consequently her cousin. He was a highly educated gentleman and counselor at law. She died in 1799 aged twenty-six years. His second wife was Sarah M. Woodhull, only daughter of Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., the venerated pastor of the Tennent church for many years, who was greatly esteemed in his day. He was the immediate successor of Rev. William Tennent, of blessed memory. She died in Natchez in 1811, leaving one child, Sarah Marsh Forman, born 1808, died 1872. She married Rev. Clifford



Smith Arms, by whom she had two sons who died in infancy. He died in the year 1863. Miss Anna M. Woodhull, a granddaughter of Rev. John Woodhull, has rendered important aid in this part of my narrative. Gen. Forman was wealthy, being a large land owner; much of it was acquired after the war by his purchasing large quantities of land that had been confiscated from the refugees. At the time of the war he lived on and occupied what is known as the Brinkerhoof property, near Freehold.

The venerable Wm. Campbell, who served as a drummer boy in the battle of Monmouth, related to me the following incident: "On a certain time during what was called the Tory reign, when they were flushed with the thought that victory was about to perch on their banner, had assembled in force at Freehold, he being a boy of some fifteen years was ordered by them to take the wagon and horses of his father, and with others to go and bring down Black David's (meaning Gen. Forman's), goods, that they might be sold for the use of the King. He started as if to obey, being greatly frightened. He hid in the swamp and to his great delight found before nightfall that they were scattering in every direction, and Freehold was soon clear of them, being routed by the sudden approach of a detachment of the American army; he once more breathed freely and went home."

I do not know that I can give my reader any better description of Gen. David Forman, or the extent of which he was feared by the enemies of his country, than to quote from Barbour's Historical Collections, as follows:

"Gen. Forman was born near Freehold, Monmouth county, N. J. In the war he was the most influential man in the county, commander of the troops at Germantown, and was high in the confidence of Washington. He afterwards was a judge of the



county court, and a member of the council of this State. His person was commanding, his address gentlemanly. Possessed of great fearlessness and energy, his name struck terror to the wood robbers and Tories, toward whom he exercised a vindictiveness which only the severity of the times could justify. Woe to the guilty culprits who fell in his power! Without waiting for *superfluous ceremony*, the gallows was generally their fate. His complexion was dark and swarthy, and such was the terror he inspired among them, he acquired the name of 'Black David' and sometimes 'Devil David,' in contra-distinction to David Forman the sheriff. Were it not for his exertions the county would have suffered far more from its intestine enemies."

It is said that Gen. Forman being so well acquainted with the topography of the country, acted as guide to Gen. Washington in arriving upon the field at the battle of Monmouth, and rendered much important aid during the progress of the fight.



## CHAPTER VII.

SAMUEL W. FORMAN, referred to in the last item of Chapter III, was about eighty-one years old. He was of the 4th generation from John 1st, and the youngest son of William Forman, my grandfather. The daughters, Mary C. and Margaret C., have given me some further information in regard to the family. Beside themselves and Jonathan Clayton, already named, he had several children that have died, to wit : Frances, aged about twenty-five years ; William Henry, a merchant in Cincinnati, at about forty-two. He married Eliza J. Horn, of Cincinnati. Left no children. John C. died at the age of twenty-eight. He married Caroline Reid, of Covington, Ky.; was printer and editor. He left one daughter, named Mary J. Jonathan Clayton by first wife, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and is publisher of this work ; he married Elizabeth C. Darroch, of Cleveland. He had two sons, Samuel W., living, William Henry, dead. Binder and stationer, in Cleveland, O. Samuel W., married Ida Kenny, of Cleveland. He has one daughter, named Elizabeth Mary. His children by his second wife : Charles Edward, died in his twenty-fourth year, not married. Those living : Frances, married Capt. Cyrus North, Braceville, O. ; had twin girls named Jessie May and Grace Clayton. Catherine E., married Thomas Harrison, editor, Lapier, Mich., recently deceased. Had one son, dead. Emma Ormsby, married Newton Allen, farmer, Braceville, O.

I now treat of Capt. John Forman, blacksmith in Freehold, as stated in Chapter I., the fifth son of John 1st. Had sons and daughters to wit : John, James, Thomas and Aaron, and daughters Eleanor, Hannah, Mary, wife of Joseph Throckmorton, and



Rebecca. His wife's name was Jane. The executors to his will were his wife, brother Jonathan, Esq., and son-in-law Joseph Throckmorton.

In Jonathan Forman's (Esq.) account book now in my possession, under date of April 29th, 1729, is the following record: "Then weighed the old iron and nails of the court house and jail, the old court house and jail having been burned down, per John Little, Esq., and Jonathan Forman. Weight of iron, 320 pounds, and nails, 84 pounds." In the same book is included accounts of Peter Forman, my great-grandfather, after his father's decease, 1762. It seems they were owners of a large tract of timber land in what is called the Forman neighborhood, and that they carried on an extensive manufactory of flour barrels, which were in great demand at that time, as the book shows that many thousands were furnished to the flouring mills for considerable distances. At that day it would appear that very little grain was exported from the county until it was turned into meal and flour, and had to be barreled. That solves the enigma of the demand for barrels. From the number that appears entered on the old book the business must necessarily have been profitable as they became men of large property. A list of the mills may not be uninteresting. I recite them as they appear on said book, to wit: John Hons, Obadiah Williams, Samuel Dennis, John Sutphin, Abraham Probasco, Wm. Covenhoven, Stephen Auback, Isaac Deys, McDaniel & Shaw, Wm. Lawrence, John Covenhoven, Edmund Williams, John Radford, John Forman, Daniel Hendrickson, John Morris, Andrew Smith, John Gaston, John Richmond, Aaron Van Dorn, (Ashfields,) Thomas Cooper, Joseph Fields, George Williams, Cyrenius Van Mater, Albert Covenhoven, Wm. Van Kirk, Peter Bruere, John Voorhees, Wm. Hampton, Nicholas Van Brunt and John Craig—thirty-two in all. Thirty-



two mills! grinding in one county, would seem to indicate that as far back as from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty-five years, (the dates in said book are from 1718 to to 1769,) much grain must then have been grown. The soil, I suppose, was then fresh and new, and even from small breadth sown produced liberal crops. I find a small book among my papers, which were once the papers of my great-grandfather Peter, an officer in the old Tennent church, and seems to have been treasurer. My grandfather, Wm. Forman, informed me some sixty years ago, that his father, Peter, led the singing in the church for some years after it was first used for the public worship. His report, May 29th, 1755, shows that the payment for the pews if not paid was to be on interest after May 1st, 1753. This would seem to imply that the church was finished about the year 1753; The Formans were largely represented, and took nearly one-tenth of the pews: Samuel Forman and David Rhea took No. 10; Peter Forman, my great-grandfather, No. 11; Jonathan Forman, Esq.; No. 24; Joseph Forman, No. 27; Lewis Forman, No. 43; John Forman, No. 18.

In the last will and testament of Peter Forman above named, dated February 24th, 1774: It appears that it was more the fashion for ladies to ride horseback than now, for the old man did not think that he could die in peace until he had bequeathed to each of his daughters, that he had not already provided for, a riding horse and saddle and a colored girl or woman to wait upon her, and gives the name of each of the waiting girls.

It is said from good authority that Col. Samuel Forman, herein referred to, constructed or had constructed, the vault under St. Peter's Church in Freehold, in which he and his two wives were interred.



As it may be interesting to the public, I gave the names, as stated in the instrument found among the papers of my great-grandfather, of twelve men (jurors) sworn to decide on an inquisition held on the 23rd of November, 1780, at Colts Neck, at the house of Joshua Huddy, (who was hung by the refugees and Tories,) tried before Peter Forman, Esq., a justice of the peace in and for the State of New Jersey, to wit: Joseph Throckmorton, Joshua Anderson, Peter Hulshart, Aukey Lefferson, Joseph Johnston, Lewis McKnight, John Hall, David Rhea, Jr., Ort Sutphin, Daniel Barkalow, Abraham Probasco and Nicholas Van Brunt.

There are a number of respectable individuals and families of the name of Forman with whom I am acquainted, not only in Monmouth and Mercer counties, but in other parts of the State of New Jersey and elsewhere, most of whom I believe are connected with the family of which I have been treating. But I have not been able to find in my researches so far connecting links necessary to enable me to write up their genealogy in a satisfactory manner. Should the necessary information ever come to my hand, I shall be greatly pleased to add it to the matter herein given.



## CHAPTER VIII.

SINCE the foregoing chapters were written, the writer learned that a gentleman residing in Allentown, N. J., named Charles R. Hutchinson, was possessed of considerable knowledge as regards the history of the Formans, he having been a descendant of the 6th generation from the pioneer who settled in Monmouth county. He very kindly, at the request of the writer, furnished him with some data which has afforded much assistance in furnishing material for this chapter.

Mr. Hutchinson has furnished data to show that Jonathan, second son of the pioneer, (he is called in the former chapters, Esquire Jonathan,) in addition to those I have recorded, had a son John, born September 14th, 1716, who married Rebecca Taylor; the marriage license is dated March 21st, 1749. John appears to have been settled by his father, Esquire Jonathan, on a property in the southeast corner of Middlesex county, supposed to be at or near Matcheponix creek. His father appears to have been a man of means, and in his will he says he has already provided for John, and merely bequeathed to him ten dollars, apparently to have him understand he did not forget him. The children of John and his wife Rebecca Taylor, were:

Jonathan, born May 7th, 1755; he had attained his majority at the time of the declaration of independence: his sisters were Hannah, who married William Vanderipe, Margaret, Mary and Catharine. Jonathan forthwith enrolled himself, among the friends of his country, and as a private soldier, hastened to battle for the good cause; he and his father both participated in the battle of Monmouth, and in that engagement he had his hat shot off his head. The Formans were well represented upon



that memorable occasion. We learn both from tradition and history, that several of the name participated in the battle in various capacities. The patriotism and attachment of the family to the cause of liberty during this trying period of our country's history, is unquestioned, and stands as a just mark of pride to us of these later generations, who enjoy the blessings of independence and liberty for which they in common contended under such difficult and trying circumstances.

It is fair to presume that Jonathan lived on his father's homestead until his removal in 1796, to the farm where he died; said farm laid about one mile northwest of what is now Smithburg, adjoining lands of Joseph Preston and others. He was not far from seventy-years old, according to the memory of the writer.

The name of the first wife of Jonathan, was Margaret Harbert, whom he married, May 6th, 1779. They had five children, viz. :

Rebecca, born February 20th, 1780, married Robert Hutchinson, June 10th, 1797, by whom she had eight children, to wit : Abraham R. Hutchinson, born May 12th, 1808; Jonathan Forman Hutchinson, Salvanus Hutchinson and Rev. Aaron F. Hutchinson. The names of the others, are to the writer unknown. The correspondent of the writer, Mr. Charles R. Hutchinson, is a son of the said Abraham R. Hutchinson, and is of the 6th generation from the pioneer of the family in Monmouth county, as herein elsewhere stated.

Richard, born December 5th, 1781, married Deborah Hammell.

Catharine, born May 22d, 1783, married Aaron Reid.

Aaron B., born April 22d, 1785, removed to Ohio.

John, born June 3rd, 1788, married a woman named Andrews, by whom he had children, viz. : Delilah, removed many years since to the West, and John A. Forman, recently deceased;



he lived on his farm about one mile west of Charleston Springs. There may have been other children.

Jonathan Forman, having lost his wife by death, married a second wife, Martha Preston, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Preston. They had six children, viz. :

Susan, married John E. Davison, by whom she had a number of children, a few only of whom are remembered, to wit : William I., Jonathan F., Gilbert W. and Phebe Ann.

Margaret, born September 22d, 1795, married Enoch Cheeseman. The names of a part of the children were : Charlotte, married John A. Forman, and Lydia married Jonathan F. Davison, and Jonathan F. Cheeseman, and other names not known by writer.

Phebe, married Thomas Davis. Removed West.

Jonathan, died when a young man.

William, married Gertrude Gravett, removed to Wayne county, N. Y.

Martha, married Jesse Parker, by whom she had four children, to wit : William Parker, Margaret Parker, Edmund Parker and Alexander Parker. They all reside on the homestead of the father ; this was also the homestead of the grandfather of the family herein referred to.

It may be deemed of sufficient interest to state in closing this brief history that the Forman's have evinced a great preference for the healing art as a profession. The writer can trace out the names of at least nine M. D.'s, who at different periods and places have figured as respectable medical practitioners, and who either bore that name or were lineally and directly descended from the family.

N. B.—The writing of the foregoing history was commenced in August, 1883, and closed in December, 1885. Some of the characters alluded to have died since the work was begun.









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